

The Detroit and Cleveland
Navigation Company Warehouse
Detroit, Wayne County
Michigan

HABS No. MICH-119

HABS
MICH
82-DETRO
15 -

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

PHOTOGRAPHS
PRESENTED BY EMIL LORCH, AIA, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

The Detroit and Cleveland
Navigation Company Warehouse

HABS No. MICH-119

Northeast Corner of Wayne and the
dock at the Detroit River

Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

The Detroit and Cleveland
Navigation Company Warehouse

HABS
MICH
82-DETRO
15-

Present Owner: City of Detroit

Date of Erection: It is stated in the George B. Catlin papers that the structure was built in 1854.

Architect: Unknown

Builders: Whiting and Newberry (?)

Present Condition: The building was razed in the fall of 1951.

Number of Stories: $4\frac{1}{2}$ Brick

Materials of Construction: The gabled four-and-a-half-story brick building measuring eighty feet on Wayne Street and sixty feet deep had rather shallow limestone foundations and brick walls. The construction was a heavy timber posts and beams supporting joists and thick pine flooring. The attic floor was supported by heavy wooden roof trusses at the floor levels and in the brick frieze the iron wall plates round in form made a pleasant pattern. On the long or nongabled sides a cornice three feet high crowned the walls. It was of brick with eight courses for the frieze topped with first four and then two brick courses. The window openings had panelled and well ornamented cast-iron lintels and sills, all in excellent taste. On the interior the window openings had splayed jambs and supporting segmental arches of brick. The inside window sills were of plank. Iron bars protected some of the first story windows. The cast iron door beads had plain panelled faces and a cap moulding. On the east and west sides the brick walls were twenty inches thick and those on the north and south sides twenty-four inches thick. Every eight course was of headers. On twelve by twelve inch square timber columns having chamfered angles rested wooden corbels or horizontal pieces of the same size and five

feet eight inches long. These supported sixteen by twelve inch beams and three by twelve inch joists twelve inches on centers. The flooring was two inches thick. Some boards were twenty-one inches wide. The outer row of columns were partially set into the brick walls and had angle braces to help support the beams. The average column spacing is about eleven feet. The floor beams and the roof trusses ran east to west. In the fourth story there was but a single center line of columns, leaving the space comparatively clear. This was made possible by having the attic or fifth floor beams form the bottom member of the trusses. The trusses and the floor construction were tied to the brick walls by iron rods and cast round plates.

Additional Data: Two additions were made to the structure before 1889; a two and one-half story brick building on the east and a one-story frame freight shed extending from the main building to the river edge of the dock. Both were removed by 1933.

Before 1889 the number of window openings was almost doubled, some old windows were enlarged and six small bay windows were added on the river side. Long iron balconies and a stair were added along the Wayne Street side as fire escapes from the two office floors. With the installation of the wainscoted offices ornamental cast-iron columns replaced some of the wooden posts.

Other Existing Records: The Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company Warehouse at Detroit by Emil Lorch published in the Michigan History booklet of the Michigan Historical Commission, December 1952, Volume 36, number 4, with 4 photographs and history.

Detroit's Oldest Building, Detroit News, March 6, 1933

Farmer, History of Detroit

Biography of Oliver Newberry, in the George B. Catlin Papers in the Burton Historical Collection.

Lithograph copyright 1857, drawn by George T. Robertson showing the Detroit River Front, in the Michigan Historical Collections at the University of Michigan.

John Farmer, Map of the City of Detroit in the State of Michigan, (New York, 1835).

Leroy De Forest Satterlee, some data regarding the Antiquity of the Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company Office and Warehouse, Detroit, 1941, in the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library.

The above history and information of the subject structure were assembled from the article "The Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company Warehouse at Detroit: by Emil Lorch, published in the Michigan History quarterly by the Michigan Historical Commission, Lansing, Michigan, Volume 36, December 1952, number 4.

Prepared by: Charles W. Lessig, Architect, HABS, National Park Service, in 1952.

Approved: _____

Dick Sutter
Chief Architect

Date 10/22/59